

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 SAM-01 /084 W

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R 060245Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5199

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5503

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJ: SOUVANNA PHOUMA AGAIN SPEAKS OF RETIREMENT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. VOA NEWS BROADCASTS MORNING (LOCAL TIME) SEPT. 6
REPORT INTERVIEW WITH SOUVANNA PHOUMA BY AFP EVIDENTLY
PUBLISHED SEPT. 5 IN WHICH PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED AS
SAYING HE PLANS TO RETIRE AFTER GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE
HELD APRIL 1, 1976. KING, HE SAID, WILL SELECT NEW
PRIME MINISTER FROM PARTY THAT OBTAINS MAJORITY IN
THOSE ELECTIONS.

2. WE DO NOT YET HAVE TEXT OF INTERVIEW. AS ADDRESSEES
WILL RECALL, HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT RPT NOT A NEW THEME.
IN AT LEAST TWO INTERVIEWS HE GAVE IN FRANCE IN OCTOBER
1974, SOUVANNA SPOKE OF RETIREMENT AFTER GENERAL ELECTIONS
THAT MIGHT BE HELD "LATE NEXT YEAR" (1975). IN INTERVIEWS
HERE OVER LAST THREE-FOUR MONTHS HE HAS SPOKEN OF RETIRE-
MENT AFTER ELECTIONS IN LATE 1976 OR EARLY 1977. HE HAS
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THUS REMAINED CONSISTENT ABOUT RETIREMENT; ONLY THE

PROJECTED ELECTION DATE HAS FLUCTUATED.
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3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED OTHER CHANNELS, APRIL 1, 1976,
ELECTION DATE HAS EMERGED WITHIN THE PAST MONTH. IN
OUR VIEW TIMING IS LOGICAL: LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT -- OR
MORE PRECISELY, LAO REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, WHICH CAN BE
EXPECTED TO "WIN" THOSE ELECTIONS -- HAS SEVERAL MORE
MONTHS OF POLITICAL CONSOLIDATION WORK TO DO BUT
PROBABLY DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER WHOLE YEAR.
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